

Message Text

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67

ACTION COA-02

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, EFIS

SUBJ: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

FISHERIES COMMISSION, LONDON, MARCH 11-13,

1974

REF: STATE 41651, COPENHAGEN 3229 DEC 19, 1973

BEGIN SUMMARY: DESPITE ACCEPTANCE BY THE NEAFC COMMI-

SSION OF A WEAK COMPROMISE RECOMMENDATION ON

TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) CONSERVATION MEASURE

ON NORTH SEA HERRING, ONLY A SLIM CHANCE IS

SEEN FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATION BY

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CONTRACTING STATES. AFTER CONSIDERATION IS

GIVEN TO FURTHER COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE RECEIVED FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS BY APRIL 1, THE SECRETARIAT WILL OFFICIALLY CIRCULATE THE RECOMMENDATION. SINCE ITS CONSERVATION FACTOR IS SMALL, THE TAC RECOMMENDATION, IF ACCEPTED, WILL REPRESENT ONLY A QUALIFIED SUCCESS AS BETTER THAN NO AGREEMENT AT ALL. THE OBSERVER FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC SAID THAT THE GDR DESIRES TO ADHERE TO THE CONVENTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE SPECIAL MEETING IN LONDON, MARCH 11-13, 1974, THE NEAFC COMMISSION RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED LAST MINUTE CHANGES TO THE OFT-REVISED DRAFT BY THE PRESIDENT OF NEAFC ON A COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR A TAC ON THE NORTH SEA HERRING CATCH ALLOCATED BY COUNTRY. SIX DELEGATIONS SAID YES INCLUDING FOUR WITH RESERVATIONS, TWO SAID NO, AND THREE ABSTAINED. AT THE FINAL SESSION, THE PRESIDENT APPEALED TO THE DELEGATES NOT TO VOTE DOWN HIS COMPROMISE PROPOSAL. HE ASKED THE DELEGATES TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS, GIVING AN APRIL 1 DEADLINE, WHICH HE WOULD TRY TO INCORPORATE INTO THE RECOMMENDATION. THE RECOMMENDATION WOULD THEN BE OFFICIALLY CIRCULATED TO THE CONTRACTING STATES, GIVING THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS A CHANCE TO CONSIDER ALL FACTORS BEFORE MAKING THEIR FINAL DECISION. IF THE POLISH AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS, WHOSE DELEGATIONS VOTED NO TO THE COMPROMISE, OFFICIALLY OBJECT TO THE RECOMMENDATION, ONLY ONE MORE OBJECTION WILL BE NECESSARY TO DEFEAT THE MEASURE.

2. THE DRAFT CALLS FOR A 488,000 METRIC TON CATCH QUOTA FOR NORTH SEA AND SKAGGERAK HERRING, OF WHICH NOT MORE THAN 107,000 TONS SHOULD CONSIST OF JUVENILE HERRING, FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1974 TO JUNE 30, 1975. THE TOTAL CATCH COULD THEORETICALLY BE UPPED TO 540,000 TONS UNDER A FORMULA WHICH WOULD GIVE A CATCH BONUS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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FIVE PERCENT FOR ADULT HERRING AND 23 PERCENT FOR JUVENILE HERRING TAKEN BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1975.

3. ONE SCIENTIST ON THE LIAISON COMMITTEE SAID THAT THE PROPOSED TAC REPRESENTS AT MOST A CONSERVATION GAIN OF UP TO TEN PERCENT FOR JUVENILES AND PERHAPS A SLIGHT CONSERVATION LOSS ON ADULT

HERRING. THE DELEGATES REALIZED THAT THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION WAS A POOR CONSERVATION MEASURE, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS ABOUT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO NO AGREEMENT AT ALL. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE HAD HIGH CATCH LEVELS IN RECENT YEARS AND THOSE WHICH HAD HIGH CATCH LEVELS IN THE PAST COULD NOT BE RESOLVED.

4. THE OBSERVER FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ADVISED THE COMMISSION THAT THE GDR WAS ANXIOUS TO ACCEDE TO THE NEAFC CONVENTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE COMMISSION WELCOMED THE APPROACH.

5. A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.
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